

Letter from the Editors: The First Issue

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Editorial Board

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WELCOME to the inaugural issue of JURA, University of Calgary's first online, open access, multi-disciplinary journal. This new and exciting outlet for undergraduates to share their research is just the beginning for students at the University of Calgary to further their communication on an academic level and showcase their efforts in the field of science.

As a team, we developed JURA on the premise that the entire publication process, ranging from the initial submission and peer editing practice to the final printed product, is an invaluable experience to which many undergraduates haven't been exposed. We noticed that the reasons for this are somewhat unjust, owing to the fact that many students feel that they lack the control and credentials to bring their work to fruition in the form of a published article. JURA is our answer — a student-authored, student-reviewed, and student-published journal intended specifically for innovative and exciting undergraduate research.

JURA acknowledges mentors, faculty, and sponsors for their support, but prides itself as being a student-driven journal. In our transparency with the entire publication process and concept of online access, we hope that this will allow for greater participation with the end goal of providing undergraduates the opportunity to globally exchange their knowledge. Additionally, because our peer review process is extremely thorough, we ensure that only submissions that are accurate and of high quality be published in JURA as to establish and maintain a high educational standard.

This is our inaugural issue, and we are very proud of both our undergraduate authors and our graduate-student reviewers for the hard work and dedication that they have demonstrated in making this a success. We are so excited to showcase innovative research and articles on topics ranging from agent-based computer modelling of biochemical systems, to the metabolism of gait transitions in cross country skiers, to the relationship between Alzheimer Disease and retinal degradation in animal models. Our authors are the true champions of this issue, and we hope that you enjoy their submissions and find them as valuable as we did.

Our journal is currently open to all scientific disciplines, and we encourage students to submit their work. For more information, please visit <http://www.ucalgary.ca/jura>.

We hope that you enjoy reading our first issue as much as we enjoyed producing it, and we look forward to many more issues in the future!